# Hiring Lab
Economic Research by Indeed

2025 Q1 US Retail Labor Market Update

Trends in the retail vertical match those of the overall labor market — job posting declines but stable wage growth. Retail and hospitality & tourism job postings are now below their pre-pandemic level. Food preparation & service wage growth has stabilized below the labor market average at about 2.6%

Indeed job postings

US job postings remain 8.2% above the pre-pandemic baseline
Indeed Job Postings Index, Feb 01 2020 = 100, seasonally adjusted, to April 11, 2025


Source: Indeed
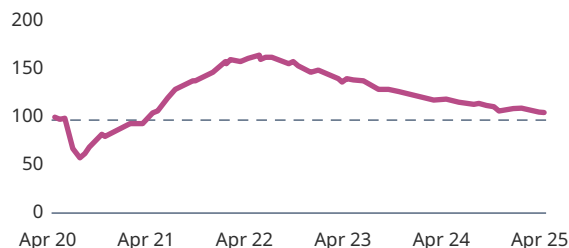
- The US labor market remained calm, and the US Indeed Job Posting Index (JPI) hovered between 8% and 12% above its pre-pandemic baseline.

- Overall, job postings were down 10.1% year-over-year, but remained 8.2% above the pre-pandemic baseline.

Retail job postings

US Indeed job postings
Indeed Job Postings Index, Feb 01 2020 = 100, seasonally adjusted, to April 11, 2025

- All postings
- Retail
- Hospitality & Tourism
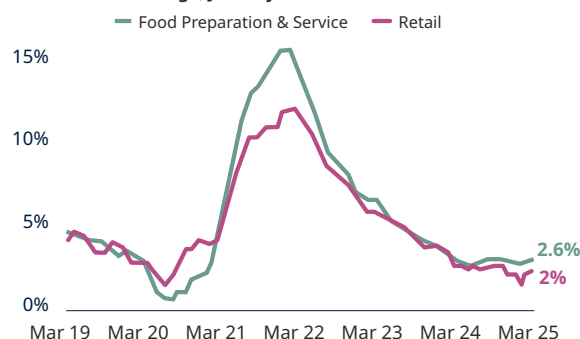- Food Preparation & Service

Source: Indeed
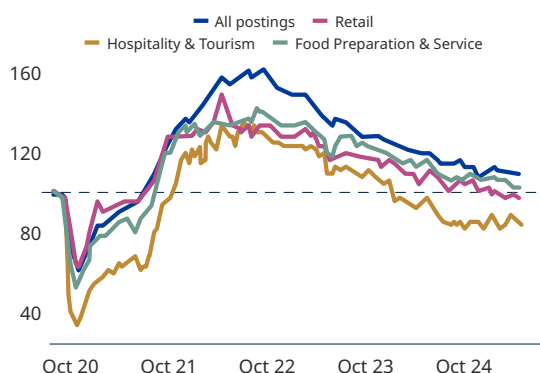
- Overall, retail job postings softened in line with the continued slowdown in the broader labor market.

- Postings in all three categories were down over the past year, with retail showing the sharpest decline at 14.1%.

- Retail postings fell below their pre-pandemic levels, while hospitality & tourism postings remained about 17% below pre-2020 levels.

Retail wage growth

Food Preparation & Service wage growth stabilizes
Year-over-year growth in posted wages, 3-month average, January 2019 - March 2025

- Food Preparation & Service
- Retail

Source: Indeed

- Wage growth across all postings stabilized at 3.1% through March 2025.

- Retail wage trends also stabilized in the past year - with retail wage growth at 2% and food preparation & service at a robust 2.6%.

- In contrast to the overall labor market, wage growth leveled off slightly below its pre-pandemic level.

About Our Quarterly Sector Reports

Hiring Lab analyzes the latest Indeed data each quarter to provide labor market insights for the transportation, retail, business-to-business, and healthcare sectors. We examine trends in job postings, wage growth, worker churn, and occupational categories to inform employers and job seekers about changes in employment across these sectors.

About Daniel Culbertson

Daniel is a senior economist with Indeed Hiring Lab, focused on the US labor market. He regularly provides labor market insights to Indeed's customers and has deep expertise analyzing labor market trends across vertical industries. Previously, Daniel specialized in regional analysis and forecasting as an economist with Moody's Analytics. He holds a Master's Degree in Economics.

About Indeed Hiring Lab

Indeed Hiring Lab creates innovative data insights on the global labor market that inspire new conversations about the state of work. As the economic research arm of Indeed, the world's number one job site, Hiring Lab's team of leading economists and data scientists provides real-time thought leadership on global labor market conditions, including hiring trends, salary information, popular skills, and employer benefits. Hiring Lab analyzes millions of Indeed's data points collected over time, along with other publicly available data sources outside Indeed, to reveal emerging labor market trends in the United States and worldwide.

Hiring Lab partners with a range of policy-making organizations, academic institutions, and NGOs, including the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank, and the Bank of Canada, as part of our policy partner data program to produce timely, incisive research. Hiring Lab data is also regularly cited in prominent media outlets such as The Wall Street Journal, CNN, Reuters, The Globe and Mail, Der Spiegel, and The Financial Times. Hiring Lab economists regularly speak on labor market trends at leading industry, policy, and academic conferences.

For more labor market insights from Indeed Hiring Lab, please visit hiringlab.org or data.indeed.com to view fresh labor market data across various global markets.

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